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LETTER DATED 24 JULY 1996 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF AFGHANISTAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to refer to the letter dated 16 July 1996 addressed to you by the Permanent Representative of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan (S/1996/558), and transmit herewith the text of the translation of an official note dated 20 July 1996 from the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan communicated through the Afghanistan Embassy at Dushanbe to the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Tajikistan regarding the same matter.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ravan FARHÂDI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Official note from the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan to the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Tajikistan

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic State of Afghanistan presents its compliments to the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan and, referring to their official note dated 16 July 1996, has the honour to state the following:

The official note caused deep concern to the State, the Government and the people of Afghanistan.

The Islamic State of Afghanistan has expressed many times through official notes, declarations and in the course of official contacts its sincere desire to broaden its ties of friendship based on religious, linguistic, historical, cultural and good-neighbourly relations between our two brotherly countries.

The Islamic State of Afghanistan considers the current events in Tajikistan as being among the internal problems of that country and recognizes that it is the Afghan Government's duty to deploy efforts based on Islamic fraternity and the principle of goodwill for the peaceful solution of those problems.

The Government of the Islamic State of Afghanistan reiterates the fact that Afghanistan strictly refrains from intervening in the internal affairs of any country, especially of it neighbours, including Tajikistan.

The presence of a number of refugees from Tajikistan in our country is provisional. Our relationships with them have a humanitarian character.

The Afghanistan Government would like the internal disputes of Tajikistan to be solved through negotiations and the Tajik refugees to return with safety and honour to their beautiful country.

Assessing realistically the prevailing situation and following the policy of peace, the Islamic State of Afghanistan knows that the continuation of any tension or military aggressive actions near the Afghan-Tajik borders would be against Afghanistan's national interests and against the interests of the countries of the region.

There is no reality behind the allegations about the existence of an association or any kind of cooperation between the units of the Ministry of Defence of Afghanistan and the Tajikistan opposition. All accusations and allegations of the kind are baseless. The Afghan Government firmly denies such claims and accusations.

We think the untrue information provided to the Tajikistan side is influenced by quarters that are keen to torpedo our good relations with the fraternal Republic of Tajikistan.

The Islamic State of Afghanistan fully shares all the wishes and the good hopes of the Republic of Tajikistan for the success of the current negotiation between the Tajikistan Government and the opposition in the Ashgabat meeting. Afghanistan hopes that through realism and a pragmatic approach major and effective steps will be taken for the basic and key solution of the conflicts in Tajikistan.

The Government of Afghanistan undertakes not to permit the enemies of the mutual friendship of the peoples of Afghanistan and Tajikistan to gain further possibilities and means to create and maintain tension between the two neighbouring countries.

The Afghan Government therefore expresses its full readiness to invite a delegation of the Government of Tajikistan to the area involved in order to proceed to a fact-finding mission.

The Afghan Government expects the fraternal Tajikistan Republic to revise its position, in the high interests of the people of both sides, regarding the closure of mutual trade roads and centres near and through the common borders.

The Islamic State of Afghanistan reiterates its attachment to all the commitments concluded since the victory of the Afghan Islamic revolution. The Government of Afghanistan expects a similar reciprocal attitude from the fraternal Republic of Tajikistan.

We fully believe that through mutual good will, realism and observance of international commitments, the tendencies aiming at the maintenance of tension in the region will be defeated and a sound political decision in favour of peace and stability and our good multi-purpose relations with the fraternal Republic of Tajikistan will prevail, and no place will be left for the exchange of such notes where wisdom and common sense stand firm.